

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A conjugate comprising two polypeptides, one polypeptide being a cytokine receptor, or subunit thereof, and the other polypeptide being a cytokine, or subunit thereof, that binds to said cytokine receptor, wherein the polypeptides are linked to each other via a polypeptide linker.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the receptor is a subunit of a cytokine receptor and binds to a ~~said~~ ligand.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the cytokine is a subunit of a cytokine and binds to said receptor.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the cytokine receptor is an IL-6 receptor and the cytokine is an IL-6 ~~IL-6~~.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the cytokine receptor is a CNTF receptor and the cytokine is a CNTF.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) DNA coding for the conjugate according to claim 1.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) An expression plasmid comprising the DNA according to claim 7.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A transformant containing the expression plasmid according to claim 8.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A method for influencing the interaction between proteins comprising incubating the conjugate according to claims 1, 2, 3 or 4 or the expression plasmid according to claim 8 with isolated cells and determining said interaction.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the cells are stem cells.